

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY**DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2010****COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS VANNESS
BENTLEY
SOKOL
GIRARD
THOMAS
CONOVER
MCDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
KAREN PUTNEY, ADMINISTRATOR, FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODE
ENFORCEMENT
BRIAN LAFLURE, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS TAYLOR
STRAINER
STEC
LOEB
MCCOY
MICHAEL GATES, CORRECTIONS CAPTAIN
JACK DIAMOND, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GLENS FALLS
EVELYN WOOD, TOWN OF THURMAN
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
JOANNE COLLINS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:47 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2010 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Sheriff York, who stated that Jack Diamond, Mayor of the City Glens Falls, had requested the opportunity to present a proposal to the Committee for the County to assume 911 dispatch services for the City of Glens Falls.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mayor Diamond who recounted that the City of Glens Falls had carried out dispatching services for the Fire Department prior to the transition of dispatch duties to the County level. The proposal for consolidation of 911 dispatch services, he said, had received unanimous approval from the Glens Falls Common Council and could present opportunities for cost savings, improved services and new revenue streams for Warren County. Mayor Diamond asserted the need for further discussions with the Public Safety Committee to work through the logistics and noted the County's superior communication capabilities. He added that the City's Shared Services Committee was also in full support of the request. Mr. VanNess pointed out that the Warren County Municipal Shared Services Committee had been made a part of the Planning & Community Development Committee and he urged Mayor Diamond to present the idea at their next meeting. Mr. Bentley recommended that the Budget Officer participate in these discussions, as well.

Mr. McDevitt asked if Glens Falls Police Department (GFPD) Chief Joseph Bethel had expressed any concerns or questions and Mayor Diamond replied affirmatively and noted that Chief Bethel had questioned the types and level of services, which he said, would be thoroughly addressed during the discussion process. Mr. McDevitt cited the seamless transition with the Fire Department, and he noted the superior technological capabilities of the County in terms of dispatch services, as

compared to the City of Glens Falls whose system had not changed in nearly a century.

From the callers perspective, Mayor Diamond explained it was easier and faster to dial 911, which would be received by the County Sheriff's Office for dispatch. He expounded that the current system required callers in Glens Falls to locate and dial the seven digit GFPD phone number. He reiterated that the quality of services would be assured and he acknowledged the County's need to increase revenues and reduce expenditures.

Mr. VanNess apprised that the Glens Falls Common Council had unanimously approved the change and he asked if the Committee agreed to refer the request to the Municipal Shared Services portion of the Planning & Community Development Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Thomas to refer the request for the County to take over 911 dispatch services for the City of Glens Falls to the Municipal Shared Services portion of the Planning & Community Development Committee.

Mr. Sokol asked for Sheriff York's perspective and Sheriff York stated that the issue was foremost a matter of services and as the elected Sheriff he would move forward as per the directive from the Board of Supervisors and the Glens Falls Common Council. He further apprised that he would plan to meet with Larry Jeffords, Communications Supervisor, who would outline the plan requirements. Sheriff York declared that the Sheriff's Department could provide quality services in this regard and noted that further research was required to determine cost, staff and equipment needs.

Mr. VanNess called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to refer the request from the City of Glens Falls for the County to assume 911 dispatch services to the Planning & Community Development Committee.

Mr. VanNess recommended an executive session to discuss the performance history and matters leading to the appointment of a corporation. Paul Dusek, County Administrator/Attorney, requested that the executive session include matters related to labor negotiations.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Sections 105 (e) and (f) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was declared from 10:02 a.m. to 10:42 a.m.

Committee reconvened. Pursuant to the executive session, motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to table the request for a contract with Correctional Medical Care, Inc.

This concluded the Sheriff's Department portion of the Public Safety Committee meeting and privilege of the floor was extended to Karen Putney, Administrator, Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, who stated that she had distributed copies of various fee schedules to the Committee members following last month's meeting. Mrs. Putney recommended that the request for a minimum fee for permit amendments be withdrawn at this time. After further consideration of the proposal, she said that she would not recommend a schedule which incurred additional fees to the public at this time. Mrs. Putney noted the next item was to review the entire fee schedule and asked for the Committee's direction. In an effort to remain budget neutral, she apprised of her suggestion to increase revenue by \$18,000 to cover the salary of one shared staff person. Mr. VanNess apprised of new information regarding shared services which involved the possibility of the Deputy Coordinator working part-time as a fire inspector and he noted that additional time was required for

review. He noted that he had received an email from Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director of the Office of Emergency Services, and Mrs. Putney had just learned of the development today. Mr. VanNess recommended that the fee schedule be tabled until the next meeting, for finalization in early 2011.

Mr. Conover conveyed his support for the cost saving strategies of both utilizing existing personnel and implementing fee schedule changes. Mrs. Putney stated that work was underway with Mr. Dusek and the Planning & Community Development Department relative to shared staff. She noted that the aforementioned staff person had informed her of his interest in the arrangement. Mrs. Putney expressed her appreciation for one part-time staff from the Planning Department and also recommended the utilization of two Deputy Fire Coordinators to perform safety inspections. Mr. VanNess expressed that his support for retaining both staff in this manner for overall cost savings to the County.

It was the consensus of the Committee to table revisions to the fee schedule.

Pertaining to the Budget Performance Report, Mrs. Putney stated that the Department was extremely busy over the past six weeks and that the backlog for permits was two weeks. She noted that the Department of Public Works staff had completed some unexpected, but necessary vehicle repairs.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mr. Conover, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Collins, Legislative Office Specialist